



Potomac Valley Radio Club Newsletter

October 2004

Visit us on the web at www.pvrc.org
and www.pvrcnc.org

PVRC Welcomes Justin, KB3LGS and Dick, WN3R, to the Northwest Region, and John, N3MNM, to the Carroll County Region.

CQWW SSB — 0000Z, Oct 30 to 2400Z, Oct 31

From the President

By Jack Hammett, K4VV

Now is the time to volunteer or recommend others to be considered by our nominating committee as officers for the coming year. Email me directly at k4vv@aol.com. Your inputs are needed by **October 15** to allow time to put together a slate for next year. We aim to have the nominations ready on October 22 so they may be published in the November newsletter. The Regions and Chapters will have the opportunity to vote in November leading up to the tabulation of votes at the Holiday Dinner in VA/MD in early December.

I am prepared to continue another year or step aside if there is another candidate with real energy. We need two new VP's as Brian is finishing six years in the VP/Pres/VP responsibilities and Guy will be nominated as a Trustee. We need a Secretary as Bob is transitioning after many years in the role. Dave will continue as Treasurer. Officers can serve from anywhere in the PVRC circle. It is desirable for one of the VP's to live in the Central MD/DC/VA Region. We will contact the current Trustees about continuing and entertain additional nominations.

A new season of competition is here. Each of us will pursue our own personal objectives in contesting, and we have a responsibility to others in PVRC to encourage and lend support to the overall team effort. We do that in many different ways, such as helping to put a station back on the air or a new antenna up, assisting with software or logging issues, offering our station to a guest if we are not operating, or being the action man in your Region to contact members with encouragement to operate. I will be in contact with leaders in PVRC asking for proactive involvement.

PVRC is a very successful Club in many ways, and we are becoming more dominant in a variety of contests. Our strength seems to be more diverse than other contest clubs, although we are several steps behind in SS and several ARRL and CQ DX contests. We have many super achievers in various categories. To build our competitiveness we need to increase participation of active members, encourage and support the improvement of stations and operating skills, and grow our membership, having fun along the journey.

The very healthy condition of our PVRC treasury gives us the opportunity to budget for initiatives to meet our objectives. Suggest you read my comments in the Northwest minutes and the ideas in the Central minutes in this newsletter.

Eric Rosenberg, WD3Q has arranged for Scott Robbins, W4PA of Ten Tec to travel here to give us a presenta-

tion on the Orion at the January 10, 2005 PVRC meeting in Vienna, Virginia. Details later.

PVRC Event Calendar

Note: All dates are Zulu. Boldface denotes contests that count toward the PVRC 5 Million Award

North American Sprint, RTTY 0000Z-0400Z, Oct 10

CQ Worldwide DX Contest, SSB 0000Z, Oct 30 to 2400Z, Oct 31

ARRL Sweepstakes Contest, CW 2100Z, Nov 6 to 0300Z, Nov 8

WAE DX Contest, RTTY 0000Z, Nov 13 to 2359Z, Nov 14

ARRL Sweepstakes Contest, SSB 2100Z, Nov 20 to 0300Z, Nov 22

CQ Worldwide DX Contest, CW 0000Z, Nov 27 to 2400Z, Nov 28

ARRL 160-Meter Contest 2200Z, Dec 3 to 1600Z, Dec 5

ARRL 10-Meter Contest 0000Z, Dec 11 to 2400Z, Dec 12

For schedule changes, rules and other info, go to <<http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/contestcal.html>>

The Toolbox

By Don Daso, K4ZA

On a recent trip to Maryland's Eastern Shore, a long-time reader of the PVRC Newsletter told me how much he enjoyed reading this little column—that he especially liked my suggestion of trying the “4-in-1” screwdriver, instead of carrying 4-5 separate items in his toolbag. I was pleased, and inspired to keep on contributing.

Indeed, further questions and comments regarding the climbing gear in the Tower Works toolbox warrant some commentary. Why climbing gear, anyway? Primarily because it's lightweight and designed to safely hold or carry human loads, so the safety margin in helping ferry your antenna or rotator atop the tower is significant.

The primary tool, of course, is the CARABINER. Carabiners are lightweight, metal links (usually aluminum) that can be closed and opened quickly and easily. Climbers, parasail gliders, spelunkers, as well as rescue personnel, use them in a wide variety of tasks. They come in a range of styles, sizes and designs. For a good reference and starting point, look at: <http://www.uhartrescue.com/carabiners2.html>

In typical climbing use, carabiners have both a connecting and a safety function. Connecting to a rope, connecting a rope to another piece of gear or to a protection piece, and so forth, are primary uses. They must withstand extreme forces, as a climber's life often depends on them, so it's probably safe to clip your toolbag to the tower using one.

As hams, we'll be more interested in the convenience factor—I never rely on a carbiner for any protective use. But, as in climbing, different activities and tasks require different kinds of carabiners. Characteristics like shape, gate-type, strength, material, weight and size will determine the right type of carabiner for each task and budget. In choosing carabiners, simply look at the intended use first. If you can, buy a few carabiners of different style to see which you prefer. If your budget is restricted, the simple designs (oval, non-locking) will probably cover most of your needs, although size can be an issue. The standard size carabiners will not fit larger-legged tower, for instance, like AB-105. For that, you'll shift to the larger, rescue-work-oriented types.

Knowing how to clip is extremely important, if you're using carabiners for fall protection. There are definite rules and procedures you should follow. But, for most ham/tower use, simply open the gate and snap the carabiner on to a leg or rung, knowing your toolbag or beam or rope is secure. The convenience and speed will redeem the purchase price of this climbing tool and any learning curve you or your ground crew experience in

very short order."

Rescue pulleys are the next consideration [mentioned previously in *The Toolbox—Ed.*]. These aluminum-bodied gadgets are ideal for tower work. They come in a variety of sizes, with ultra-smooth bearings, and best of all, rotate apart so that they can be put on to a line at any point along its length. I never climb without at least one. I also always use one at the base of the tower (with a swivel), allowing ground crew personnel to back away from the tower and be able to look up without worrying whether or not the rope is going to snag on the ground.

Finally, a few thoughts on slings. These are typically loops of nylon, sewn together. The "norm" or standard is 25mm sewn slings, manufactured from French-made *Faure-roux* webbing. These general-purpose slings have impressive strength, typically a rating of 25 kN and an actual strength usually over 30 kN. (4000 lbs equals 17.8 kN). When the webbing is made into a sling and tested, a strength of around 25-30 kN can be obtained.) Generally, a particular length of sling is made a certain color, to assist in distinguishing different lengths. (I like the 4-foot length, which is blue, attached to the boom to hoist beams, for instance, although I have a variety of them.) The real "magic" of the sling is that it's like that kid's toy, the Chinese finger puzzle—where the tighter or harder you pulled, the tighter and harder the little paper tube gripped your fingers. Relaxing your hands made the paper loose, and you could remove your fingers. Slings work the same way. A few wraps, and you can hoist a mast or other vertical member without the hassle of bolting on a muffler clamp or other device on the end. I recently used one to secure and tug several thousand feet of Heliac (7/8-inch and 1&5/8-inch) through the muddy trenches at K4VV's new station, without once losing the cable end! Some folks wonder about the safety and security of them, or why you can't use rope to do the same thing, and it's the one quality that uniquely qualifies the webbing—rope slips, webbing doesn't.

If you're familiar with cranes, you've seen difference versions of these climbing tools in use. "Open slings" are a length of webbing with a small loop at each end. "Closed slings" are the standard circular slings with a stitched join. These are usually heavier and wider material, and are designed for lifting dead weights. The configurations are usually different as well. The important point to remember about each type is that the surface around which the sling is secured is critical to safety. If any sling is worked around a rough surface, a lower strength than normal for the webbing will be obtained. And, a square edge or threaded bar, for example, will drastically reduce any webbing's strength.

I enjoy the speed and ease of use of these climbing accessories—that's why they're in my toolbox. What's in **your** toolbox??

The Ten Tec Orion — First Impressions

by Fred Laun, K3ZO

After being urged by Orion owners Ben, N3UM and John, W4AU to take the plunge and get one, having had a brief chance to check Ben's out during an NCDXA meeting at his house, I finally picked up the phone and ordered one. Delivery was promised within a month but I actually got mine about two weeks after ordering it, so it looks like the waiting period is not as bad as it once was.

There are plenty of places you can read the technical specifications of the Orion and theoretical descriptions about why it does what it does. In this article I will simply describe my first impressions from an (appliance?) operator's point of view without going into the engineering explanations, which I would only be cribbing from other authors anyway. After all, isn't a roofing filter something you put on the roof of your house to keep water from getting into the house during a rainstorm?

It took me another month to get around to installing the Orion. My repaired FT-1000MP (lightning damage) arrived on the same UPS truck as the Orion, so I decided to plug it in first to make sure it was really fixed. I did however unpack the Orion and the AC power supply I had ordered with it, and proceeded to read the manual. Having cut my ham radio teeth on Heathkit manuals, I am frankly not too impressed with the Orion manual.

It's as if the authors said: "Let's see, how are we going to organize this thing...? Why don't we just start with each button, beginning on the left side of the front panel, and describe what each one does in turn?" Finally in Chapter 4 you get to the operating instructions.

After reading the manual through three times and getting helpful suggestions from N3UM and W4AU as well as other PVRC Orion owners Eric, W3DQ; Bob, W9GE and Bruce, W3BP, I finally took the plunge and installed it at my HF operating position in the shack. No doubt one thing that motivated me to take this step was XYL Somporn's comment: "If you're not going to use it, let's send it back."

Hookup was easy and it mates well with my Titan 425 amplifier. The 4-pin mike connector is compatible with the connectors for my Kenwood TS-830S, and I was able to continue using the D-104 sideband element that I have used with all of my other HF radios, through a W2IHY box. Interestingly enough even though the Kenwood connector is the compatible one the W2IHY box works best with its Yaesu option selected. This didn't happen immediately but using the Orion is more like using a computer than any radio I've had before, in that its CPU seems to be able to sense some things and self-adjust. At first it worked with the Kenwood option but not so well, and all at once it began to work well with the Yaesu option. The computer-type response is also evident each time I change bands and want to transmit on SSB. It pays to just say "hello test K3ZO" on the new band before calling anybody because you have to voice a couple of syllables before the rig gets up to full power on the new band. After that, it's fine until you change bands again. Without a doubt the Orion gives the operator far more control over receiving conditions than any other radio I have ever owned. For one thing it has a combination of noise blankers that work on almost any noise you will come across, which is more than I can say for the noise blanker in the FT-1000MP.

So far the principal improvement I have noted is in the way it handles strong signals. As many of you know Tom, K3TW lives on top of a hill less than a mile away from me and can see all of my antennas from a perch 30 feet up on his tower. With the FT-1000MP, if we were on the same band, I would hear a steady S7 hiss all over the band each time he transmitted. I had been accusing him of putting out synthesizer hash with his vintage Icom radio. Enter the Orion. Now I hardly know he's on the band until we are within 10 KHz of each other. The "synthesizer hash" I used to hear is nowhere to be found. Furthermore, the Orion seems to limit automatically the amplitude of really strong signals. As a part of our on-the-air tests Tom turned his antenna toward me after he had at first been beaming in another direction, but his signal, which was originally 40 db over 9 on the Orion S-meter, never moved above 40 db over 9 as he turned the antenna toward me. I also notice when using the Orion's sub-receiver that my local 50 KW BC station, WPGC-1580, whose transmitter is four miles away, actually causes the S-meter to rise less than some out-of-town BC stations do.

For years I have been bothered by a bunch of local Cbers who I am told run as much as a pair of 3-500Z's on AM from their vans as they drive around the neighborhood. Their favorite frequency is 27024 KHz but some of them wipe out the front end of the FT-1000MP even when I'm on 15 meters. In fact they bother 15 more than 10. The reason may be that on 15 I use a Yagi at 155 feet, while on 10 my antenna is a quad at 78 feet. At any rate, with the Orion I know they're there when I'm listening on 15, but they don't keep me from copying even the weakest signal. Furthermore, with the separate volume control for the Orion's independent sub-receiver, I can keep the sub-receiver on 27024 and when I hear splatter from an offending Cber I can turn up that volume control to catch the handle of the offending Cber without having to do anything with the main receiver. So far a fellow identifying himself as "Nutty Buddy" seems to be the main culprit.

In recent months I have been bothered by a BPL-like dirty AC carrier which has peaks every 70 KHz throughout the HF spectrum and fills in the valleys with an elevated noise level as well. Since the signal emanates from a home (I haven't yet determined exactly which one) at a bearing of 65 degrees from my station, it bothers me when I beam Europe and on the FT-1000MP can obscure weaker signals when I am running stations in contests. I can report that with the Orion its so-called "hardware" noise blanker works against the noise to some extent, and I find myself bothered much less by the carrier using the Orion.

The Orion allows you to vary your received bandwidth in a linear fashion rather than in steps. As many of you

know, I don't like narrow filters because of the ringing. I don't agree with Ben that the Orion filters don't ring at all, but whereas I generally use the FT-1000MP on CW with 2.4 KHz filters in both IF's to avoid ringing, I find that with the Orion a bandwidth of anywhere from 950 to 1200 Hz works very well for me on CW without bringing in a level of ringing which is bothersome to me. Its passband tuning feature is also very efficient. In one instance I was copying a weak DX station when a loud station began to transmit just above him, and I was able to adjust the PBT control to take the offender out completely while continuing to copy the DX station without missing a letter.

The Orion front panel takes some getting used to after becoming accustomed to the FT-1000MP, but I do like the "real" S-meter in place of the bar graph. The tuning knob for the main receiver is a little close to the volume control for the sub-receiver and at times my fat fingers bring up the audio on the sub-receiver without my meaning to do so, but other than that I have no real complaints. I'm still getting used to pushing all the buttons and learning all the menus, but I have learned enough to make the radio work acceptably well for me almost all the time. I spent the WAE SSB Contest working only 40 meter split in order to get used to working split with the Orion, and I must say once you get used to using the sub-receiver to find your transmit frequency and then use the VFO associated with the sub-receiver to transmit with, using the main receiver to receive split, it really becomes very easy to use in split mode.

The RIT is very smooth and works up to plus-or-minus 10 KHz from your base frequency, but I find it takes a lot of turns of its knob to get very far from the base frequency. Up to 1 or 2 KHz away it is very useful however. I had heard a complaint from one former Orion user that as you tune across the band the receiver jumps in CW pitch rather than tuning in a completely linear fashion. What I have found is that you can set the tuning increment for the way you like, and if you set it at 1 Hz it tunes through the band linearly like any other receiver you've ever used, but very slowly. I have found that setting the tuning rate at 100 Hz, there is indeed a slightly noticeable jump in pitch as you tune, but you soon internalize that as you get used to the radio, and in 100 Hz jumps I can tune through the band at an acceptable rate of speed.

As I get older I find I need more audio volume to present an acceptable audio level to my ears. I can report that, unlike the FT-1000MP, the Orion has plenty of audio to use no matter what way you've got the radio set up, and I appreciate that very much.

The Orion has a pre-amp which can be engaged or disengaged on any band immediately without going to a menu first. I know that receiver purists say that you should only use a pre-amp when you really need it, but I like to see the S-meter jumping around a lot and the feeling that comes with the impression that your receiver is really powerful. So I have ended up using the pre-amp full-time, and the anti-overload characteristics I described earlier were all experienced with the pre-amp on, which makes the radio all that more impressive. Furthermore, now I can forget any ideas I might have had about needing an outboard pre-amp to use on 160 with my EWE low noise receiving antenna.

I have used the radio for less than a month and I'm sure there is a lot more I have to learn about it, but I have done my best to describe in detail what I have learned so far, strictly from the operator's point of view.

VHF and Above

By Chuck Watts, W4XP

Once thought of as useless, now one of the most sought after resources in the world ... use them or lose them!

Remaining VHF Fall Sprints--CW/Phone/Digital--sponsored by the Southeastern VHF Society

432 MHz 7-11 PM Oct 6 Eastern Time

Microwave (902 MHz and higher) 6 AM-1 PM Oct 16 Eastern Time

50 MHz 2300Z Oct 23 - 0300Z Oct 24.

Fixed and Rover categories

Exchange: Grid Square.

QSO Points: 1 pt/QSO. Score is QSO Points x Grid Squares, score each sprint separately. Rovers all grids worked from each grid.

For more information: http://svhfs.org/fall_sprint_rules.htm. Logs must be emailed or postmarked within four weeks of the contest. 144 MHz logs to ottf@wbia.net or Ottmar Fiebel W4WSR, PO Box 957, Hayesville, NC 28904. 222 MHz logs to k4sz@arrl.net or Bob Lear K4SZ, PO Box 1269, Dahlonega, GA 30533. 432 MHz logs to w4kxy@arrl.net or Jim Worsham W4KXY, 1915 Oak Wind Lane, Buford, GA 30519-6766. Microwave logs to rover@wireco.net or Greg Robinson KB4NVD, 208 Dogwood Acres Rd, Hampton, and TN 37658-3348. 50 MHz logs to wa4njp@bellsouth.net or Ray Rector WA4NJP, 3493 Holly Springs Rd, Gillsville, GA 30534.

The K8GP Story, continued [you can see the first part on the PVRC web site—Ed]



The operating positions from the rear entrance of R2B2. 2304 MHz and above is the nearest position, then 903/1296 MHz, Rover coordination station, 222 MHz and W3ZZ sitting in front of the 432 MHz position.

The War Wagon, ol' Blue and Big Red now formed the heart of the tower supports, along with a "short" Create tower on the generator trailer, and all of the operating positions. So now the "low-band" operators had it pretty good, but the 222 MHz and above crew was still "sardined" into the cramped space in the Blue bus, and it was becoming apparent that there were problems with the bus which would soon make it imperative that it be replaced, or at least less relied on for an operating position. So, in 2000 the group added to its "stable" of buses Real Red Bus 2 [R2B2]. R2B2 would become the 222 MHz and above operating station and the Blue bus would become the R&R vehicle, as well as providing two tower mounts. This bus was set up more as an operating station, with beds as a low priority add-in. As a result the operating bench runs the full 21-foot length inside. And, yes, the bus is bright red, not the burgundy of the first "red" bus.



One-man swing-tower mount in operation. K8ISK tying the red flag on just before we load up and head for the Knob.



K8GP Today

One feature that the group developed during the configuration of R2B2 was the Swing-tower mount. Several members gave serious thought on how we could reduce the time necessary for getting the station assembled, towers up and cables run. When we first started operations at Spruce Knob, setting up required a minimum of four days and five people to put up nine towers, run about 2,000 feet of coaxial and rotor control cables, configure and test 10 networked computers, nine transceiver/transverter/power amplifier stations, and tie all of this into a 15 kW generator. Needless to say it became apparent that we had to come up with a faster, easier way to put the towers up! Terry K8ISK took all of the ideas on how to achieve a method for faster tower erection and the result is the swing-tower mount pictured above.

Let me conclude this brief overview of the K8GP history with a picture of what the setup at Spruce Knob looks like today. The Blue bus is scheduled for replacement later this year, hopefully with a diesel-powered model, newer than our other buses, equipped with an automatic transmission.

Check out the DVMS website at <http://k8gp.net> for more details on the group. Visit the DVMS web site at <http://k8gp.net> and read the more detailed history of the group, along with some contest scores, lots of pictures of various contest operations and “mug shots” of several key members and operators.

Catch you in the Sprints!

Contest Expeditions to 4X and V2

PVRC members from West Virginia Dave Ellis, WA8WV and Hal Turley, KC8FS have announced they will operate M/S in Reut, Israel from the IARC's 4X4REM club station. Reut is located between Tel Aviv and Jerusalem. They will be signing 4X0WV (Four X-ray Zero Whisky Victor) a special callsign granted exclusively for the contest.

This is the same station Hal operated from for 17 hours of last year's CQWW DX Phone contest on his way to Jerusalem. In that effort he had over 1,220 QSOs but was only able to operate 10-20 meters. The 4X0WV operation will be QRV on the low bands during the 2004 contest.

N3OC et al (Team Antigua) will once again activate V26B [<http://n3oc.dyndns.org/v26b/>] during the CQ WW DX SSB Contest as a Multi-Two entry. QSL via KA2AEV (direct only, as they "cannot guarantee a timely response for QSLs received via the bureau route"). Before and after the contest (from about 26 October until about 3 November) the operators will be active with their individual calls; they will make special attempts to be active on RTTY, PSK31, 160 metres and the WARC bands. There is also a possibility of some satellite operations on AO-7 and AO-51. Look for V26A (QSL via WB3DNA), V26B (QSL via KA2AEV), V26EM (QSL via W2SN), V26G (QSL via N2ED), V26KEN (QSL via N2KEN), V26OC (QSL via N3OC), V26OX (QSL via K3OX) and V26R (QSL via KA2AEV), plus a few new members who will announce their QSL routes when their Antiguan callsigns become finalized. [TNX KA2AEV, reprinted from the 425 DX Report]

Keeping An Embedded Tower Base Straight

By Jim Jordan, K4QPL

One of the tricky things about an embedded tower base is how to get it perfectly plumb. I used three of those mini size “load binders” (Walmart, Home Depot, etc.) and put in tent stakes about 10' from the base on the same lines as you will put your guy wires. After putting the gravel in the hole, put the 10' section in and hook the long lead of the load binders to the three corners of the tower section near the top. When you get close to plumb, use your level and then click them one click at a time to get an absolutely perfectly vertical section. That way there's nothing in the way while you're pouring your concrete, and before it sets, you can check and readjust if necessary. It works fantastically because it also puts some down force on the section.

For those not familiar with the term, a load binder is one of those things you see on open semi-trailers securing their loads. It consists of nylon straps with hooks on the ends, connected by a ratcheting tensioning device. You operate the handle to wind up the strap and it holds with no knots or other clips. Can be released by reversing the ratchet. The mini ones cost a couple of dollars apiece. I carry them in the trunk of my car, in my Suburban, etc. because if you have to carry anything with the trunk or hatch open, you can just hook one of those and bring it snug. MUCH better than bungee cords since there's no spring to them and they can be adjusted from about 2 to 10 feet in length.

Around The Club

News from the regional chapters

Central Chapter Meeting Schedule

October - Vienna, (hopefully at Anita's), Monday, Oct. 11 7:30 PM
dinner before for those interested

November - Temple Hills, Monday, Nov. 8 7:30 PM
Dinner before around 6 PM at Topolino's for those interested

December - annual holiday dinner, Monday, Dec. 13, location and time to be announced

Central Region meeting held Monday, September 13 in Temple Hills, MD.

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 after dinner at Topolino's. Members attending were WR3L, N3OC, W3ZZ, K3ZO, KI3O, W3DQ, KD4D and KE3Q.

It was noted by Dave that the treasury was at an all-time high. No burning need to go spend all the money in one place, but there was discussion as to what those funds might support. It was noted from the floor that whatever we used the money for had to benefit all of PVRC, and not a particular area or region.

Dave stated in the meanwhile that he wanted to move some of the money to something that remain liquid that would provide at least some interest (which K4VV has subsequently approved).

Some of the ways suggested to use the treasury were:

Pay for travel expenses for the club president to visit outlying regions.

Initiatives to get young hams into contesting.

Ensuring our ability to be able to put up antennas and towers in the future. It was discussed whether this would best be accomplished by a fund to effect legislative affairs, or direct assistance to members having antenna fights on their hands. It was noted that any assistance we could directly provide to a member might be a pittance compared to the total cost. N3HBX was cited as an example. I think trying to affect legislative affairs would be our best shot at this, rather than any direct assistance, and even then the few hundred or even a couple thousand dollars would still not be enough. (So continuing to support the ARRL in these efforts, pooling our money with others would be best, as we have done in the past.)

Pay a portion of travel expenses for first time contest expedition travelers, especially young contesters.

Support of the contest training manual, any costs associated with that.

Hire a speaker for the holiday dinner (all of these suggestions for use of the treasury have been forwarded to

K4VV for consideration)

There were a number of good ideas that came up. It was noted what the group in NC is doing about installing "standard" station packages for new and willing members. It was suggested that we might want to try that up here, however WR3L noted the liability issues if PVRC as an organization were to begin installing towers. So if this were to happen, it needs to remain somewhat distanced from the club to defend against any liability and be more of a grass roots effort from individual members. It still remains a good idea, just needs some caution. KE3Q suggested construction a basic dipole antenna kit, parts paid for out of the treasury, and issue it to new members as an incentive to join with their commitment to provide us scores. Perhaps put into our Autocall column as a want ad for new members with the offer of contest training, and a free set of basic wire antennas plus the folks to put them up.

That evolved into a suggestion that a database be established on who has expertise on various subjects, and would be willing to help others with those subjects. That seemed easy enough to do and would provide new members with an ongoing resource to get them help.

Then the subject of a training for new contesters came up. The material should be put it on the web site. That would mean something PowerPoint based probably, which is easy enough to do, and the PowerPoint viewer software is free if one does not have PowerPoint. Rich mentioned he would be interested in working on this, but suggested he is not so good at organizing things, but would be willing to construct the document and offer some input if someone else would suggest the overall outline. Hopefully we could get various members to write the chapters that cover their area of expertise.

It was suggested we attempt to sponsor a weekend or day long contest convention, with speakers and even secure a place of lodging if needed.

A request was made to see if we can get Ten Tec to come up and give a presentation on the Orion.

73, Brian McGinness N3OC

Carroll County Region, September 24, BBQ at Hashawa Park

In Attendance: WX3B, NY3A, W3ARS, AK3Z (sponsors); K3ZE, W3ADC, W3ADX, N3ND, WA3G, N3II, N3SB, N3VOP, N3MNM, KC3VO, W3JJH, KB3GHE, K3CAV, and guest Donna, XYL of W3ARS.

The Carroll County PVRC Group had a very festive fall meeting in beautiful Hashawa Park, located in the country in Westminster, MD. There were a number of breakthrough events during this meeting. It was my first (PVRC) meeting with the Father/Son contest team of John and Nathan King – W3ADC and W3ADX. Welcome to PVRC, gentlemen – I look forward to contesting with you in the future.

It was also a record turnout for our local group: 18 people – 16 of which were PVRC members and by the end of the night, 17 were PVRC members. This was also our first of a regularly schedule meeting – which will generally be every other last Friday of the month. Exceptions will include Contest weekends (like November's meeting) where I will post the dates on the PVRC website in advance.

Business was transacted at our meeting - John Pohlhaus, N3MNM was unanimously voted into PVRC. John has been active with this group for 4 years...and is a regular contester at WX3B and K3PZN.

Our next meeting in November will be scheduled within the next two weeks and posted on the PVRC web site. We are considering a Pasta-Extravaganza at the Westminster Fire Training Center – home of the Carroll County Amateur Radio Club. Stay tuned for full details.

I would like to thank all of our sponsors for donating their time and money generously to fund the dinner and

we had a great group of guests engaged in a rag chew long after sunset. Everyone enjoyed the company, food and beautiful surrounding scenery during a perfect fall evening.

We are all looking forward to the October start of the contest season... 73, Jim Nitzberg WX3B

CVCC/PVRC Meeting, September 14

About 10 folks made it to the pre-meeting dinner at Nick's Roman Terrace. The food and conversation were both great. From memory, those present were: W4MYA (Bob), W4DR (Bob), W3BP (Bruce), K4JA (Paul), N4EHJ (Ralph), W4HJ (AC), KI4FDF (Sejo), N4DEN (Dennis), N4LSP (Mike – our speaker for the evening), WK4Y (Roy – dropped in to say hi), and this author W4TNX (John).

The 7 PM meeting at the Henrico Doctor's Hospital was brought to order by K4KML (Marie), filling in for NW4V (Ed – out of town on business). Attendees, in addition to the dinner crowd and Marie were: Marie's XYM K4KJL (Jerry), WU4G (Ronnie), KG4WNW (Shelia – who just passed her EXTRA – Congrats!), KD4LBR (Bruce), N4DWK (Dave) and KE4PRL (Eddie – his first meeting in about a year).

KI4FDF and W4MYA played in the NAQP @ MYA's place, MYA also played in the QSO Party and VHF tests, W4DR got R1MVI for a new one on RTTY, W4HJ played in the QSO Party, N4EHJ reports some EC antennas now on the fire station out his way and W3BP has casually operated in several contests.

General Reporting:

N4EHJ reports that the 2M net talking up the CVCC was a flop and after 2 attempts the effort was abandoned.

N4DEN reports that our packet cluster node is doing great.

A call was made for dues from anyone not paid up for the current year to send \$20 to NK4H, Bob Ladd.

Peter Island DXpedition contributions of \$250 are needed, if the CVCC is to be listed as a DXpedition sponsor. This DXpedition is scheduled for early next year (only the 3rd one ever, I think). We had two \$25 contributions prior to the meeting, so we need eight more. A motion was made, seconded and passed that if the club could get at least half of the \$250 in contributions, our treasury could make up the difference. W4MYA, W4HJ, W4TNX, W4DR, N4EHJ and KG4WNW all kicked in \$25 on the spot to make this a done deal. Another contributor or more would save our treasury the expense and help the DXpedition all the better.

Marie (K4KML) passes on the following CVCC needs: Newsletter Editor, Plaque Sponsor, DX Editor, Program Suggestions

Upcoming contests: CQWW DX RTTY – Sept. 25 JARTS WW RTTY Oct. 16 CQWW DX SSB Oct. 30

Jerry (K4KJL) is featured in a Delta Dental Commercial now running on TV! Ralph (N4EHJ) pointed out that the RARC asked for potential new hams to call-in to channel 12 TV for training by volunteers.

The Program: Mike Baker (N4LSP) did a great presentation on "Radials, Ground and Dirt".

Mike had a PowerPoint style presentation, with facts, figures and pictures on some of the 27 kinds of "ground". The average ground in Richmond is 25 ohms, a Mil Spec ground is 10 ohms and some Cell Phone sites require 1 ohm. It is possible to have ground rods within a few feet of each other that vary from a good ground to no ground! Mike used an Extech clamp-on meter to take snap[shots demonstrating real Richmond area ground characteristics. He covered "a lot of ground", including: earth grounds, chassis grounds, ground loops and fruit loops. Thanks for the presentation, Mike.

Meeting adjourned around 9 PM or so – long meeting, but fun and interesting.
Respectfully submitted, John (W4TNX)

Northwest Region Meeting September 2004 — The NW Region met at the City Buffet in Frederick, MD on 21 September 2004. In attendance were K4VV, W3TEF, W0YR, K4FTO, K2PLF, W3EKT, W3KHZ, N3VOP, N3ST, K8OQL, NE3H, W0YR, N4MM, W2YE, K3WC, WN3R, W3BDE, K3TZV, W6NRJ, KC3VO, KA3IDS, KC3EK, W3IDT, K3ZO, W3ZZ, W8ZA and W3LL.

Announcements: W3LL, Bud — W3TEF, Roy nominated KB3LGS for PVRC membership. Justin is a 16 year old high school junior who is considering a career in engineering. He operated the June and September VHF contests at the W3SO VHF contest station. Justin is a third generation HAM. His grandfather is W3ULM, dad is W3SF, mom is N3MAZ and sister is KB3EVN. Justin was unanimously voted into PVRC. Welcome aboard Justin!!!

W3ZZ, Gene nominated WN3R for PVRC membership. Gene has known Dick for many years. Besides working each other, they would meet for lunch once each year. Dick's old call was K3DML. Dick was unanimously voted into PVRC. Welcome aboard Dick!!!

Events scheduled prior to our next meeting: Carroll County PVRC BBQ 24 September, CQWW RTTY 25 September.

From Around the Table: K4VV — Jack discussed the following PVRC leadership topics: We have more money than ever in the treasury. In the past it has been just enough to pay our expenses. Our membership has been very charitable in supporting the club by providing sufficient funds for discretionary expenses. The club has changed over the last seven to eight years. It is much more distributed in character with a strong team in North Carolina and growing teams in other distant places. At the Central meeting there was extensive discussion on where to apply the funding. The ideas included:

- Doing things that benefit the overall club;
- Helping smaller stations;
- Installing standard packages for new members such as new antennas;
- Establishing a database of expertise for help;
- Training for new contesters;
- Hiring a speaker for the Holiday Dinner;
- Sponsoring a weekend or daylong contest convention;
- Having TenTec give a presentation on the Orion;
- Having a PVRC booth at Frostfest in Richmond to include a forum and speakers;
- Inviting speakers for software programs such as DX4WIN;
- Inviting KT3Y to talk about wire antennas;
- Providing for the club president to visit outlying regions;
- Focusing on initiatives to get young hams into contesting;
- Assisting ARRL and local efforts to keep antenna zoning under control.

Jack welcomed ideas from all present, as we went around the table, for building a budget and providing resources that benefit the whole club over the coming year. Fixed expenses include the 5M and related awards, newsletter mailings, website, sponsored contest plaques. We should look to the chapters to come up with the initiatives and the implementation teams.

Our bylaws have a requirement that the slate of officers for the next year be presented at the September PVRC meeting. The slate is not yet together and Jack invited recommendations for candidates for Secretary. Bob, W2GG, wants to step aside after many years of dedicated service in that role. He has been doing a job that has some very distinct heavy duty components to it. That job could be two jobs, Secretary and handling of the scores and accounting and associated bookkeeping. It is the right year to have a new Vice President or two. If

asked, Jack will serve next year as President or, support another candidate. A slate of officers will soon be available with a plan to have the vote take place.

Jack has been working on tower systems. Four foundations are complete, trenches have been dug and over 10K feet of hard-line is in the ground. The trenches are still open because control cables have not been fully identified. Jack is looking for help with those who have expertise in switching systems - a switching matrix needs building - Top Ten devices four radio switching - a bank of four way Stack Masters for four or five bands - three stack switches for the others that will switch among the towers - four towers with a total of seven stacks along with other antennas.

The county permit process is complete. A PE is signing off on each phase of construction. The project has been in the mill for close to 1-1/2 years and is still not close to completion.

W3TEF, Roy reports Marty, W3YOZ, trustee of the W3SO VHF UHF contest station, had a heart attack on the 2500' station mountain. Roy transported him to the hospital where a balloon angioplasty was performed on the 100% blockage. Marty is now recuperating in his West River home and sends his appreciation for all the concern shown to him. Marty's concern while being wheeled in for angioplasty was that W3SO be on the air for the ARRL VHF contest - and they were. This leaves the station in a bind. Marty, at age 66, was the station's tower climber. Unfortunately everyone else is older than that. The station did very well in the VHF QSO Party contest with their second highest score of 357K points. Roy had never heard 2M as wide open in a contest as in last night's 2M sprint. Stations from Maine to Georgia and Florida panhandle were worked with S9+20 signals. In the four hours, 181 stations and 59 grids were logged. Roy passed around photos of the W3SO site taken during the ARRL VHF contest.

W0YR, Mike received an OO notice for "running" on a frequency during the WAE SSB weekend contest. It was legitimate — authenticated by CBS News ;^). The ARRL is looking into the matter. Mike yielded the balance of his time.

K4FTO, Art is from Gainesville, Va. This is Art's first meeting since January. He operates with all indoor antennas due to CCR's. He's operated in four VHF and four HF contests for a total of 842 contacts since his last meeting. An 18' 40M vertical is clandestinely installed during HF contests. Art would like to see more low power stations calling CQ on VHF during the contests.

K2PLF, Marty couldn't make it to W3SO for the VHF contest but did manage to work them from home. Last weekend Marty went to the W9DXCC convention which was reported to be outstanding - one of the best conventions he's been to. The venue was large enough to accommodate everyone in very comfortable surroundings, the audio/visuals were the best he's seen and the program was outstanding - not to be missed.

W3EKT, Ed installed a 3 el SteppIR on a Rocket Launcher last month with no complaints so far. In the VHF contest Ed made 125 Q's on 6 and 2M only. Last week he had cataract surgery and improving vision - his wife didn't really smack him in the eye the way it looked.

W3KHZ, Art, also VY2MM is back from PEI after two good months there. A 6m opening allowed Art to work some people in the room. Also a good aurora opening. He got to see the VY2ZM and VY2TT super stations. Art is the little pistol sitting between the two of them with 100W and a vertical. Photos are coming. On the way home from Canada Art's wife fell in the restroom off the Garden State parkway and broke her hand. After returning home and getting the hand set in a cast, she slipped on the rug and broke her back in two places. She's in a nursing rehab home now with expectations of recovery over a long time. Art reports the VY2 boys are planning to reactivate CY9 next summer for about a month's operation. Good to be back among PVRcers, like this meeting, good to be home and back on the contest route.

N3VOP, Mike had a good experience at FAR-fest. The Carroll County's club rocket launcher was used to hold 432, 220 and 2M antennas and a 6M beam on a separate mast. Four ops worked each of the four bands along

with fill-in ops. When the train came by 100 yards away all operation ceased due to the noise. Points earned for the four bands was about 15.5K. The four computers were not networked together. Mike lives in a townhouse and has a green vertical in a pine tree at 50' which he used to get 250 grids on 6M.

N3ST, Bryan's first meeting since being voted into PVRC at last month's Fowlfest. He recently returned to HF. Bryan has a Rohn SST 160' self supporting tower with a tribander on top and a future 2 el 40M beam at 120'. He lives in Littlestown, Pa.

N4MM, John made 86 Q's and 3K points in the VHF contest. In the WAE SSB he made 133 Q's and 126 QTC's for 33K points. He attended FARfest and did a VE session. He went to Virginia Beach for the ARRL Roanoke Division convention. Attendance was light due to weather hazard road closures. The new location is in a new college. The conflict of Richmond and Vienna on the same weekend may wind up killing both of them. Riley Hollingsworth is very interested in the mysterious signal appearing on 10.125Mhz sending code groups. John thinks it's coming from Mt Weather three miles away with S9+70 signal. It should not be in this band if originating from the US. If needed, John has Riley's cell phone number.

NE3H, Joe operated as BV9A three weeks ago using little antennas close to the ground at the seashore. Many PVRCers were among the 400 US contacts worked over two nights. With this weekend's CQWW RTTY contest, Joe negotiated with the XYL for lunch on Saturday and dinner after eight on Sunday.

W2YE, Dick managed 20 Q's on 6M for the VHF contest. He participated in the Hiram Percy Maxim event with 280 contacts. A 14 year old YL, KG4LTB, was the guest speaker at the Sterling Park ARC meeting last night. She won a plaque the last three years for the Virginia QSO Party. She also did a presentation at the Dayton youth forum with an excerpt printed in last months NCJ. It's good to see a young YL active in contesting - maybe this hobby isn't going to die in the next decade after all. Dick received a response back from his Senator Warner regarding Fish and Wildlife approval for amateur operations in such places as Navassa. A negative stock answer response was received by the Senator and forwarded to Dick. Maybe the legal route is necessary.

WN3R, Dick, the newest member of PVRC, is looking for opinions in building a new station - ham heaven on the top of the Catoctin mountains. W3BDE, Les was attending his first PVRC meeting. His last HF QSO was in 1982 and until last week his last VHF QSO was in 1994. He is 80% retired with a rekindled interest in contesting and here to listen to our collective wisdom. K2WC, Dusty has new Force 12 5BA, new 40/30M 2 El, a C3I 6M beam and an Omni 6+ new in the box all for sale.

Both Bud, W3LL and Dusty, K2WC have MonstIR antennas on order with SteppIR. Shipping will begin 15 October. Dusty is 14th on the list and expects his by the end of October. Changes causing the delay include increased wind rating to 100MPH, larger stepper motor housings for the 40M elements and ability to ship via UPS. If the club is looking to spend money for members to put up towers, Dusty knows of two towers on the ground that need help.

K3TZV, Steve hasn't been able to make the NW meetings due to a job change. Steve managed to work Joe, NE3H on some island that wasn't Pratas and didn't count for anything but Taiwan. W6NRJ, Jim, had his first experience with the PVRC reflector requesting help raising a 45' pole. N3FX, W3YY and W2CDO volunteered their help to raise it this weekend. Jim is now retired and available to help out his fellow hams. He suggests a database of available help sources be accessible on the website.

Also the club may make available to new members RFI kits and aids in putting up indoor/sneak antennas. Jim passed around camping antenna insulators, also known as plastic bottle separators available at Costco.

KC3VO, is known as motorcycle Bob because of his unusual motorcycling habits. He drives a 6-cylinder motorcycle with a trailer sometimes hitched to the rear with a 1500+W amplifier and operates HF, VHF, UHF and including 10 Gigs. His main forte is RF, both in experimenting and helping others optimize their equipment. He helped Brian, ND3F improve the functioning of his microwave and UHF rover mobile for the VHF

contest. Bob is a transmitter engineer for a 5 Megawatt TV station. That job makes his availability on contest weekends unpredictable. Bob hopes to set up a wind or solar powered field day site on the beach in Ocean City. Using a PA system he hopes to get teenagers and twenty-something youngsters exposed to amateur radio. The setup would allow passersby to hear both sides of the phone conversation or an explanation of CW. Right now, the chances of teenagers seeing amateur radio in action is very limited. Bob works part time as a consultant to Yaesu and has been working in their booth at Dayton for the last seven years. If you have a problem Bob says don't hesitate to give him a landline call - everyone else does.

KA3IDS, Judy is a guest this evening - XYL of Glenn KC3EK. Glenn says he sat on the wrong end of the table to get on the tower list. He is getting back into radio after a 5 year absence. He wants to get on packet via computer but needs help with telnet and asks how to get PVRC QSL cards [LZ1JZ - see ad in PVRC newsletter]. He will have a lot of IRC's for sale at the next meeting. Glenn was past president of BARC (Baltimore Amateur Radio Club) and past VP of FAR (Foundation for Amateur Radio). BARC funded nine college scholarships thru FAR using excess club money. This may be applicable for excess PVRC funds. Glenn's XE1VIC was the first contact out of Mexico during the 1986 Mexico City earthquake. For eight days he passed health and welfare traffic for the Mexican Embassy. Maybe a database should be created listing available PVRC stations willing and capable of passing health and welfare traffic during a disaster. Glenn says put him on the short list for a tower - Rohn 55 at 150'. He has the antennas, just needs the tower..

W3IDT, Bob planned on growing his two twenty foot towers this fall. However, at the same time Marty had his heart attack, Miriam, KA3UBJ took Bob to the hospital with chest pains. After three days of delay, an angioplasty was performed followed by a helicopter medevac to GWU for quadruple heart bypass surgery which was performed eight weeks ago. Bob thanks all who called or sent emails for his recovery. This puts this fall's antenna projects on hold.

K3ZO, Fred hears that Bob's motorcycle station has also been a BPL project tester. At this time of year Mike, W3MC usually puts out a call for volunteers to man the station he sets up for Jamboree On The Air. Fred participated for the last several years. Several Boy Scout projects are ongoing on the field of pitched tents. The scouts rotate thru the projects every thirty minutes including the ham radio station. This is another way to introduce youngsters to ham radio. Fred's observation is that CW fascinates youngsters the most - they all like cracking codes. If you see Mike's email requesting volunteers, and can do so, you'll be helping kids get interested in ham radio. Lightning has limited Fred's ability to compete in VHF contests but he did get on 2M with 16 watts of CW only and managed to work 92 stations and 24 grids for 2008 points. Now he knows how the other half lives. His spare rig is an Icom but none of the mikes fit the Icom plug. To encourage brand loyalty, Japanese manufacturers all use different plugs. There is an extensive tropo opening this evening - after the meeting he planed to make plenty of VHF contacts.

W3ZZ, Gene's tower is now reguyed. His microwave loopers are back up. The 2.3 Gigs and up antennas are close to being up. He was in the VHF contest where W3FAR sat on the calling frequency for the entire contest. This cost him at least 25 mults because the 2M calling frequency is where you find and move stations. Gene had 300 Q's and 89 mults for 38K points in a half time effort. In last evening's 2M sprint contest he had 84 contacts in 24 grids after missing the first hour. He plans to go to the Seanet conference with Fred which means he'll miss the phone sweepstakes.

W8ZA, Bob has one tower stripped of all antennas which have been refurbished and ready to go back up. This tower has mostly VHF and UHF antennas. During the VHF contest he used a vertical ground plane at 110' and worked a dozen PVRCers on three bands. He worked a few with a 6M beam on the railing. Bob showed his navy short-timers chain with 101 days to go until retirement from NIST. Bob suggests the NW Region put in a resounding vote of confidence to have Jack continue as PVRC president - [followed by a resounding vote of applause].

W3LL, Bud attended FARfest and was pleased to see it back at Gaithersburg. Maybe next year we can get rid of the ponies and expand the venue. Bud was in the WAE SSB contest and the ARRL VHF contest. Bud was

very pleased that Owen of C3I came thru with both 2M and 440 antennas in the midst of their move from Virginia to Maryland. Also, Dan Simmonds, president of AN Wireless Towers, along with his dad did a super job of: installing 450' of 4" PVC into trenching, foundation excavation, rebar cage assembly, cement pouring/forms, removal of excess foundation and trenching dirt along with grading around the tower site. The 2M and 440 antennas are built and tested. Now waiting for SteppIR to ship the MonstIR antenna which has now slipped to mid November (tenth on the delivery list).

The meeting adjourned at 8:50 PM. The next NW Region meeting is Tuesday, 19 October 2004.
73, Bud W3LL NW Region Chairman PVRC

PVRC 5M Scores **By Bob Dannals, W2GG**

No final score tallies to report this month, reflecting the summer gap in 5M events, but one correction to make. In reporting the WPX CW results, your editor (not Bob!) inadvertently used the wrong score tabulation, omitting N2YO's excellent SOHP score from W0YR: 1774 QSOs, 695 Mults, for a score of 3,628,595. FB Chip!

Cheap Weatherproof Entry Panel **By Jim Jordan, K4PQL**

While pulling cable and control wires from the tower to my new ham shack, Jack, W0UCE and I were looking for a way to protect the open ends of the buried conduit and feed-through PVC pipes from water, to mount a grounding plate etc. without a lot of \$ or time spent making something. In typical ham-scronger fashion, we discovered the permit box left by the contractor. A few minutes with a hole saw, drill, screw gun and caulk and we had a 100% weatherproof entry point with a full face flip open front. Even after several inches of rain from Hurricane Ivan there wasn't a drop of water anywhere inside. I already had a homebuilt box on my tower, but I think a permit box would also be great for that and protecting relays, small remote tuners, etc. Next time you're at Lowe's or Home Depot, have a look at this cheap but clever design. It even has a key lock to keep little fingers out of trouble. They're even cheaper if you can "liberate" one from a completed construction site!

This Just In...

RICH AMATEUR BUYS 40 METER BAND

By Jerry Givens AP

(Washington DC) AP- A wealthy Chevy Chase, Maryland amateur radio operator has reached preliminary agreement on a deal with the Federal Communications Commission to purchase a chunk of the radio spectrum popularly known as the "40 meter band." Communications experts said they were completely surprised by the arrangement and some expressed grave concerns about the selling off of frequencies reserved for use by amateur radio operators ("hams").

The sale, valued at \$149.3-million will become effective sixty days after official publication by the US government. The matter came to light only yesterday when an FCC staff member leaked scant details of the agreement to the Associated Press.

Eugene K. Branca, 74, owner of Brancom, an internet branding company said he decided to try to purchase the amateur radio frequencies after years of dealing with interference by scores of international broadcast stations which overload the band, making amateur radio broadcasts difficult to hear, especially at night. Branca said he intends to have his attorneys send letters to such broadcasters as Radio Moscow, the Voice of America and the BBC, informing them of the new arrangement and giving them 60 days to vacate the wavelengths.

The agreement gives Branca the right to use the frequencies between 7.0 and 7.3 Megahertz for any purpose he wishes, but Branca said he would reserve the band of frequencies for use by amateur "hams." Branca said ham radio operators would not have to register to use his newly acquired frequencies. "If you have a ham license and if you operate legally, you don't have to do anything," Branca said. "It's my gift to my hobby."

Editor's Note — the above news report was forwarded by Mike Lonke, W0YR/4, and was intended for publication in the April issue, but only now came to light. Thanks, Mike!

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Warrenton, Virginia

PVRC REFERENCE PAGE Please send corrections to the editor. October 2004

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PVRC Dues PVRC has no annual dues. Donations are gratefully accepted by the Treasurer, Dave Baugher WR3L, 615 Rockaway Beach Ave., Baltimore MD 21221. Please make your checks payable to PVRC.

Autocall Column Editor is K3DI 410-757-6706

PVDXSN Packet Network

W3LPL	Glenwood MD	145.590, 441.250	w3lpl.net	W3IP	Crownsville MD	145.570	
WR3L	Baltimore MD	145.610, 440.950	wr3l.net	N3RR	Rockville MD	145.510, 441.325	
K3SKE	Frederick MD	144.930, 441.125	12.173.48.67 port 23	W3YOZ	West River MD	144.910	
W3TOM	Acokeek MD	145.770		N1WR	Lusby MD	145.690	
N4OHE	Mt. Weather VA	145.710, 446.025		NE3H*	Harrisburg PA	144.970	
W3BD	S. Mountain PA	145.630		N4SR*	Woodbridge VA	145.630	
W4XP	Bull Run Mtn. VA	144.990		K4JA*	Callao VA		dxc.k4ja.net
				W4ML	Goochland, VA	145.09	dxc.w4ml.net

Most of the system is sponsored by the Potomac Valley DX Spotting Network. Nodes with * are independently funded by each SYSOP., The W4ML node is funded by CVCC.

PVRC Meetings

CENTRAL: The Central Meeting is always the second Monday (except June, July, and August) at 7:30 pm. The central meeting generally alternates between MD and VA locations. A pre-meeting dinner is usually held between 5:00 and 6:30 pm. Check via 147.000- repeater. VA LOCATION: The Patrick Henry (Public) Library, Route 123, Vienna, VA. MD LOCATION: Church of the Nativity (Episcopal), Route 5, Temple Hills, MD.

Pre-MD meeting dinner at Topoleno's Restaurant about 6:00 or 6:30 pm.

NORTHWEST: Chair: Bud Governale, W3LL, 410-666-9189. W3LL@arrl.net. Meets monthly the 3rd Tuesday. Informal dinner about 6pm; meeting at 7pm at the City Buffet, 1306 W Partick St, Frederick, MD 301-360-9666. Rear of shopping center, behind Mountain View Diner.

NORTH CAROLINA -- EAST: Chair: Guy Olinger, K2AV, k2av@contesting.com; Sec: Jim Price WW4M. POC's are K2AV and WW4M (h:919-362-4635, w:919-460-2991). PVRC/NC meets at 6 pm the first Thurs of each month, plus an additional meeting in April at the Raleigh Hamfest. For details see <http://pvrcnc.org>

NORTH CAROLINA -- WEST (TRIAD): Meets the 4th Monday of the month at 7:00 PM at Cobalt's Elemental Eats and Drinks on Deacon Blvd. in Winston Salem. Ragchew at 6:30. Directions are available upon request. The chairman for the new PVRC/NC West chapter is Henry Heidtmann W2DZO, henry@summitschool.com and the secretary is Robert Whitaker KG4NEP, kg4nep@yahoo.com.

TIDEWATER COLONY OF PVRC: This group now meets in conjunction with the Virginia DX Century Club at Ryan's Steak House, which is on Battlefield Blvd in Chesapeake, at the Battlefield Blvd South (VA 168) exit off I-64. The meeting is still the third Tuesday of every month. We gather for dinner around 1815-1830, with the meeting around 1915-1930. Contact W4ZYT at 757-457- 5181 or w4zyt@exis.net for additional info.

SOUTHWEST VA: Coordinator: David Jones, N4JED, Vinton, VA 540-890-2034, N4JED@AOL.COM. Meetings begin at 6 pm at the Roanoker Restaurant, Roanoke, Virginia in a private room (ask at the desk if you have not joined us before).

BWI: Weekly breakfast Wed at 7:00 AM at Basil's Deli Port on Elkrdige Landing Rd 1/4 mile South of Winterson Road 410-850-4333. Director: Ike Lawton, W3IKE, 410-263-2830. Sec: Howard Leake, W6AXX, 410-465-7008, w6axx1@starpower.net

OVER-THE-HILL LUNCH BUNCH (VA DC MD): Meetings are held monthly at three locations: Falls Church VA (Parkview Marriot), Oxon Hill MD, and Beltsville MD. Meetings are announced by E-mail or by telephone. All members and non-members interested in membership are welcome. For information contact Ben Shaver, AA4XU, 703-534-4740 or Bill Leavitt, W3AZ, 301-292-5797.

PENNSYLVANIA: Steve Cutshall, K3TZV, k3tzv@paonline.com, 717-763-0462.

RAPPAHANNOCK: Steve Bookout, NR4M (ex-NJ4F) NJ4F@erols.com. Also, Larry Schimelpfenig, K7SV, k7sv@va.prestige.net

OCOQUAN: Jack O'Mara W4NF, H:703-791-3302 W:703-739-7636 w4nf@comcast.net and Cliff Deel W4CE, w4ce@aol.com 703-491-0841

CENTRAL VA: Pres: Ed Moore - NW4V - nw4v@comcast.net, Secy: Marie Long - K4KML - long2624@netzero.net, Treas: Robert (Bob) Ladd - NK4H - rladd@comcast.net. Meetings are held on the second Tuesday of the month at 7:00 PM at the Henrico Doctor's Hospital, 7700 Paraham Rd., Richmond, VA. To the right of the main entrance is a second entrance. Go through that door, turn left through that door and the cafeteria is the first room on the right. There

will be some who meet at Nick's Roman Terrace, Westlands Shopping Center, West Broad Street starting at 5:50 PM for dinner before the meeting. Talk-in available on 145.430

SOUTHERN MD: Chair: Wayne Rogers N1WR E-Mail: n1wr@chesapeake.net Phone: (H) (410) 394-0313 Meetings held at the home of N1WR.

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- 113 alphanumeric memories



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